

In Christ, death is defeated.  
He is our victory. He is our hope.



**Our Family Parish**  
Clermont County, Ohio  
(513) 732-2218  
[www.cincinnatise5.org](http://www.cincinnatise5.org)



*Our Family Parish*

HOLY TRINITY | ST. ANN | ST. LOUIS | ST. PHILOMENA

*We are united under the Cross of Christ*

## FUNERAL PLANNING BOOKLET

*Losing a loved one is always difficult, but  
with faith in Christ, there is eternal hope*

This funeral booklet and its policies apply  
to all four parishes within  
*Our Family Parish* of Clermont County:

St. Louis



St. Ann



Holy Trinity



St. Philomena



## FUNERAL TIMES

Monday	11:30 a.m.
Tuesday	11:30 a.m.
Wednesday	No Funerals
Thursday	11:30 a.m.
Friday	11:30 a.m.
Saturday*	At the availability of a priest due to other Masses.

**\*Due to constraints of only one priest, Saturday funerals are not offered every week; check availability of the pastor.**

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## *Note to Families & Loved Ones*

*We have provided this booklet to help families with the planning of the funeral liturgy, so to be informed Our Family Parish policies. We will do our best to provide the parish of your choice to celebrate your loved one's funeral; however, there may be a time when a specific parish is not available. We appreciate your understanding, given our constraints.*

## Music Selections

### Processional Hymns

Christ the Lord is Risen Today  
Amazing Grace  
On Eagle's Wings  
We Walk by Faith  
Holy, Holy, Holy

### Offertory Hymns

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus  
Lord of All Hopefulness  
Be Not Afraid  
Eye Has Not Seen  
Christ Be Beside Me  
God We Praise You  
Just a Closer Walk With Thee

### Communion Hymns

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep  
Silence  
Gift of Finest Wheat  
O Living Bread from Heaven  
Prayer of St. Francis  
Blest Are They  
Take and Eat  
We Have Been Told  
I Am the Bread of Life

### Recessional Hymns

All Creatures of Our God and King  
For All the Saints  
How Great Thou Art  
Jesus Christ is Risen Today  
The Strife is O'er  
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

### Communion Meditation

Ave Maria - Solo/Instrumental  
Panis Angelicus - Solo/  
Instrumental

***Songs printed in **purple** cannot be used during the season of Lent.***

## Gospel Reading Options (continued)

### 20. John 11: 32-45

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Sir, come and see.” And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him.” But some of them said, “Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?”

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him, “Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me.” And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.” Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

### 21. John 14: 1-6

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

## Our Family Parish Procedures

A funeral reflects the liturgical style of a specific parish. Although Mother Church has Universal Norms for funerals, each parish is given the right to work within those norms, adapting them to the personality of the parish. ***By choosing a parish within Our Family Parish, you are agreeing to abide by our policies. If not, you should have the funeral at a different place.***

*Our Family Parish* is our family, a family to which your deceased loved one belonged; thus, by their membership they have accepted the policies and procedures of *Our Family Parish*. Therefore, we expect individual families to respect and follow its policies.

If a particular family does not wish to accept our policies, they are free to go to another parish outside *Our Family Parish*.

## Our Ministry is to Help Grieving Families

The death of a loved one is one of the most difficult experiences a person/family can go through. A funeral is a time for the family to grieve, as well as to spend time in deep prayer and reflection on the mystery of the life promised by Christ to faithful disciples.

Our goal, our ministry, is to help grieving families and to assist the deceased through our prayers and rituals to journey towards heaven. Because your loved one was a member of our family, and to allow us the opportunity to carry out a corporal work of mercy, we do most of the tasks associated with the funeral Mass (i.e. read, serve, distribute, etc.).

## Reception of Holy Communion

Holy Communion (Eucharist) is our most sacred treasure, and therefore we will do everything within our power to protect and uphold the sanctity of our Lord. As St. Paul warns, “*Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves*” (1 Cor:11).

We realize that not everyone who attends a funeral Mass is Catholic or a practicing Catholic. We want to remind you that only those who are **practicing Catholics may receive the Eucharist. Please communicate**

**this to anyone who may not be aware of it so that they do not receive.** Please let them know they are to remain seated during the Communion Rite. The priest will also make an announcement in order to let all those present understand this Church teaching.

### Distribution of Holy Communion

It is the custom that only the Body of Christ is distributed for funerals. The priest and deacons distribute Holy Communion.

### Readings

This booklet provides a list of approved readings for funerals. The readings for the funeral may be selected by the family or the priest. Pages 6-13 contain the readings. During Easter Season (the time between Easter Sunday and Pentecost), the 1st reading *must* come from either #1, 2, or 3.

### Only Practicing Catholics Can Read at Mass

Included in this booklet are the appropriate readings and music selections for our funeral liturgies. It is our funeral policy that a member of the bereavement ministry read for funeral Masses. If a family wishes to use someone else, he or she *must* be a practicing Catholic, no exceptions!

### Music

As Catholics, music is an important part of our worship experience. The music within the liturgy must be beautiful, universal, and complement the action taking place on the altar.

***All music used within the Mass MUST be liturgical and upheld to the standards of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. If you would like to know if a certain hymn or song is acceptable, please contact our Music Director.***

The list in the back of this booklet contains hymns that are suitable for a funeral Mass. Four songs are used: Processional Hymn, Offertory Hymn, Communion Hymn, and Recessional Hymn. An additional song may be used as a Communion Meditation. The Music Director must approve the music used.

### 17. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus, we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

### Gospel Reading Options

### 18. Matthew 5:1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

### 19. John 6:51-58

I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us [his] flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

## 2nd Reading Options (continued)

### 14. Romans 14:7-12

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God.

### 15. I Corinthians 15:51-57

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### 16. II Corinthians 5:1-10

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. For in this tent we groan, longing to be further clothed with our heavenly habitation if indeed, when we have taken it off, we shall not be found naked. For while we are in this tent we groan and are weighed down, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now the one who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a first installment. So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

## Flowers

Flowers may be placed in the church prior to Mass, but other decorations/flowers are not to be moved. Flowers also may be brought forward by the family during the opening procession or the procession of gifts (bread and wine). Flowers are to be placed in a vase near or next to the casket or remains.

### Families Who Choose Not to Use a Funeral Home

The role of the funeral home is to help families plan and make easier what is already a very difficult and emotional situation. If you choose not to use a funeral home, we ask that when you meet with the parish bereavement group to plan the funeral you bring or give to the parish both the **Death Certificate** and **\$300 (cash or check payable to the parish) to cover the funeral service**

### Words of Remembrance/Eulogies

Although it is important for people to express words of appreciation for the deceased, the Mass is not an appropriate time for such remarks. **No eulogies are allowed during the Mass. The General Instructions for the Roman Missal states this directive very clearly in paragraph 382: "At the Funeral Mass there should, as a rule, be a short homily, but never a eulogy of any kind."**

The Rite of Christian Burial provides several opportunities for family/friends to speak in remembrance: **Visitation** either the night before or morning of, **Committal** at the cemetery, or at the **Reception** afterwards.

### Visitation

Families may use our conference room for a one hour visitation prior to the funeral Mass for one hour.

Please keep in mind the parish is not a funeral home and therefore we are unable to provide additional media such as computer, TV, chairs, tables, etc. No decorations are allowed in the conference room. If you desire these things, please consider using a funeral home for the visitation.



## Proper Burial

The Order of Christian Funerals is a three-part ritual, with Vigil (viewing), Funeral Mass and Rite of Committal (interment). It is strongly encouraged that the Funeral Rites be conducted in the presence of the body of the deceased. However, the Mass of Christian Burial may also be celebrated with the cremains present in the church. **A funeral Mass may be refused if the family refuses to bury the body/cremains shortly following the funeral liturgy.**

The body or cremains is to be properly and reverently buried. The Church forbids the scattering of ashes or keeping cremains at one's home. (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith)

## Committal at Cemetery

The Rite of Committal should be celebrated at the cemetery following the Mass. A priest/deacon, if available, will accompany you to the cemetery for the service.

## Veteran

If the deceased is a veteran, the funeral home can make arrangements for a military service. If not using a funeral home, you must contact the military directly.

## Flower Delivery

Please have the flowers delivered to the parish during business hours, or you may have the flowers sent to the funeral home for them to bring to the church.

## Mass Offerings

It is a good and pious practice for friends and family to offer additional Masses for the deceased. However, we are limited in the number of Masses accepted due to great demand. Any offerings we cannot accept will be sent to the Missions.

## Second Reading Options

### 12. Romans 6:3-9

Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

### 13. Romans 8:31-39

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ [Jesus] who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? As it is written: "For your sake we are being slain all the day; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm Options

### 9a.) Psalm 23

*R. The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want*

### 9b.) Psalm 27

*R. The Lord is my light and my salvation*

### 10a.) Psalm 34

*R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord*

### 10b.) Psalm 34

*R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor*

### 11a.) Psalm 63

*R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord*

### 11b.) Psalm 98

*R. Sing to the Lord a new song*

### 11c.) Psalm 103

*R. The Lord is kind and merciful*

Praise the LORD, O my soul, and  
forget not all his benefits —  
who forgives all our sins and  
heals all our diseases...

- Psalm 103:2-3 -

## 1st Reading Options

(Must be used during the Easter Season.  
Can be Second Reading option outside Easter)  
(50 days after Easter Sunday, ending with Pentecost)

### 1. Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter proceeded to speak and said, “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word [that] he sent to the Israelites as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and (in) Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised (on) the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

### 2. Revelation 20:11-21:1

Next I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life.\* The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

## 1st Reading Options (Easter Season continued)

### 3. **Revelation 21:1-7**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them [as their God]. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, [for] the old order has passed away.” The one who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Then he said, “Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true.” He said to me, “They are accomplished. I [am] the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son.

## 1st Reading Options (Outside of the Easter Season)

### 4. **II Maccabees 12:43-46**

He then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection in mind; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be absolved from their sin.

### 5. **Lamentations 3:17-26**

My life is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; My enduring hope, I said, has perished before the Lord. The thought of my wretched homelessness is wormwood and poison; Remembering it over and over, my soul is downcast. But this I will call to mind; therefore I will hope: The Lord’s acts of mercy are not exhausted, his compassion is not spent; They are renewed each morning—great is your faithfulness! The Lord is my portion, I tell myself, therefore I will hope in him. The Lord is good to those who trust in him, to the one that seeks him; It is good to hope in silence for the Lord’s deliverance.

### 6. **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to give birth, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

### 7. **Isaiah 25:7-9**

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples. A feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations. He will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken. On that day it will be said: “Indeed, this is our God; we looked to him, and he saved us! This is the LORD to whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”

### 8. **Wisdom 3:1-9**

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if to others, indeed, they seem punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. In the time of their judgment they shall shine and dart about as sparks through stubble; They shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord shall be their King forever. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with the elect.



